AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A composting apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a plurality of composting drawers in the housing, wherein the plurality of composting drawers are in a stacked relationship when in the housing, and wherein each drawer includes a bottom region having a plurality of apertures; and

a plurality of receiving structures in the housing, the receiving structures being respectively disposed under the plurality of composting drawers to receive composted material from the plurality of composting drawers.

2. (Original) The composting apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of breaker devices, each of the breaker devices being adapted to agitate composted material at the bottom region of a composting drawer within the plurality of drawers.

3. (Original) The composting apparatus of claim 1 where the plurality of drawers includes a first set of drawers and a second set of drawers, wherein the first set of drawers and the second set of drawers open in opposite directions

4. (Original) The composting apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of drawers includes a spacer element that spaces a rear wall of the drawer from a wall of the housing.

5. (Original) The composting apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of air vents in the housing, and a climate control system adapted to control the climate within the housing.

6. (Original) The composting apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of drawers includes a spacer element that spaces a rear wall of the drawer from a portion of the housing and also extends in a downward direction so that when the drawer is pulled out, the spacer element pulls a receiving structure underneath the drawer.

7. (Original) A composting system comprising:

a plurality of the composting apparatuses of claim 1, wherein the composting apparatuses are stacked.

8. (Original) A method of using a composting apparatus comprising:

placing compostable material and composting organisms into each of a plurality of drawers, wherein the drawers in the plurality of drawers are in a stacked relationship;

composting the compostable material within the plurality of drawers to form composted material within each of the plurality of drawers;

agitating the composted material in the plurality of drawers; and

passing the agitated composted material through the plurality of apertures at the bottom region of each drawer within the plurality of drawers.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

receiving the composted material in receiving structures under each of the drawers; and

removing the composted material from the receiving structures under each of the drawers.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein agitating the composted material in the plurality of drawers comprises moving each of a plurality of breaker devices respectively coupled to the drawers back and forth, wherein each breaker device includes a grid that is disposed over a

bottom region of the drawer in which the grid is present.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A composting apparatus comprising:

a) a composting container adapted to contain a composted material, the composting container having a plurality of side regions and a bottom region defining an inner region for receiving compostable material and composting organisms, wherein the bottom region has a plurality of apertures through which composted material can pass through; and

b) a breaker device comprising a grid above the bottom region of the composting container, wherein the breaker device is adapted to agitate composted material at the bottom region of the composting container so that the composted material passes through the plurality of apertures in the bottom region of the composting container;

wherein the composting container is a drawer in a plurality of drawers in the apparatus.

15. (previously presented) The composting apparatus of claim 14 further including a compostable material disposed within the container.

16. (previously presented) The composting apparatus of claim14 further comprising worms in the container.

17 - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A method of using a composting apparatus comprising:

placing a compostable material and composting organisms into a container, the container

having a plurality of side regions and a bottom region defining an inner region for receiving the compostable material and the composting organisms, wherein the bottom region has a plurality of apertures through which composted material can pass through;

composting the compostable material to form composted material;

manually agitating the composted material; and

passing the composted material through the plurality of apertures at the bottom region of the container.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising, after passing:

receiving the composted material on a receiving structure that is positioned underneath the container.

21 - 30. (Cancelled)